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## Foreword

Maurice Rapin died suddenly from a heart attack in November 1986. He was a respected leader in the field of intensive care in France as well as in Europe, and had been a founder of this discipline in the 1950s. In 1970, he opened the MICU at the Henri-Mondor University Hospital in Créteil, which has since produced several generations of investigators, as well as attracting many visitors from other countries. Throughout his life, Maurice Rapin dedicated himself to the education and training of young physicians, and to the exchange of scientific knowledge and experience.

After his death, several of his pupils established the Maurice Rapin Institute to perpetuate his name and continue his activities in education. The first in a continuing series of 'Maurice Rapin Colloquia' was held in 1988. The original idea was to bring together a small group of experts for 2 days in an attractive but remote location, where they would discuss and review the most recent knowledge in a specific field. The

topics were to be different at each meeting, but they were always to have particular significance for the management of severe infections. Seven meetings have already been held, and their presentations and conclusions published as a contribution to medical education, especially in the field of severe sepsis or hospital infection.

This seventh publication of the 'Maurice Rapin Colloquia' is expected to provide a high level of scientific information to microbiologists and infectious diseases specialists concerned with all aspects of evaluating and predicting the ecologic impact of antibiotics. The Bristol-Myers Squibb Company made possible both the meeting and this publication. On behalf of the Maurice Rapin Institute, I thank the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, as well as each of the contributors to the meeting, for their support and participation.

*B. Schlemmer*

*Past-President of the Maurice Rapin Institute*